

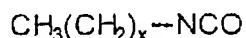
Amendments to Claims

Claim 1-16 (canceled)

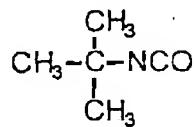
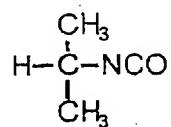
Claim 17 (currently amended): The compound of claim 32 A nitrile oxide precursor compound according to Claim 1 where R is substituted with alkyl, sulfate, sulfonate, alkoxy, CN, NO₂ or an aromatic group.

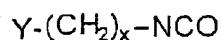
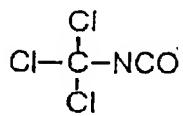
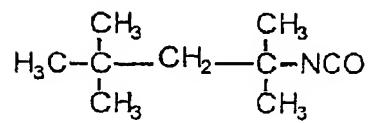
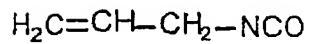
Claim 18 (currently amended): The compound of claim + 32 where R is a biphenyl group, fused rings or repeating aromatic groups.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The compound of claim + 32 where R is ~~or a residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate derived from a compound selected from the group consisting of:~~

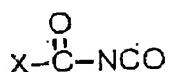


where x is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 or 17

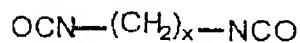
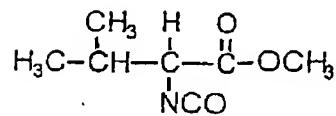
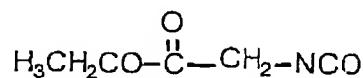




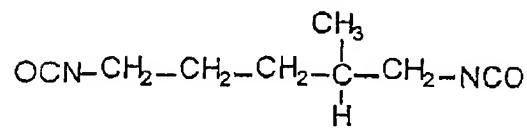
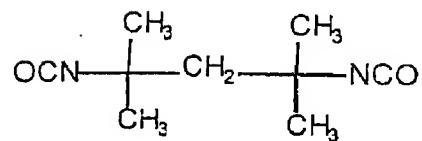
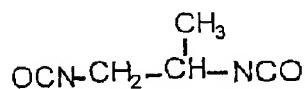
where Y is Br or Cl and x is 2 or 3

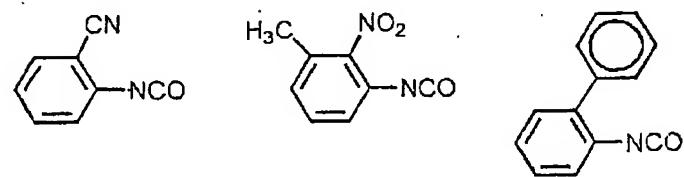
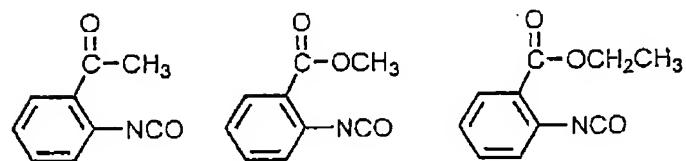
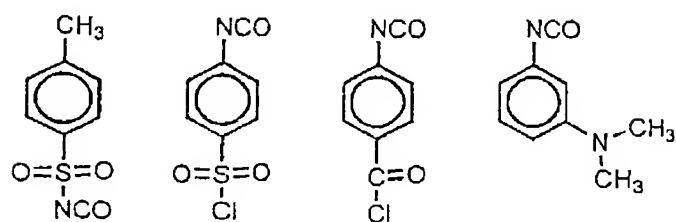
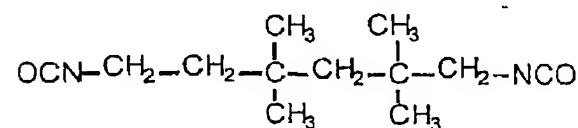
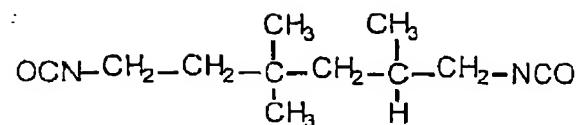


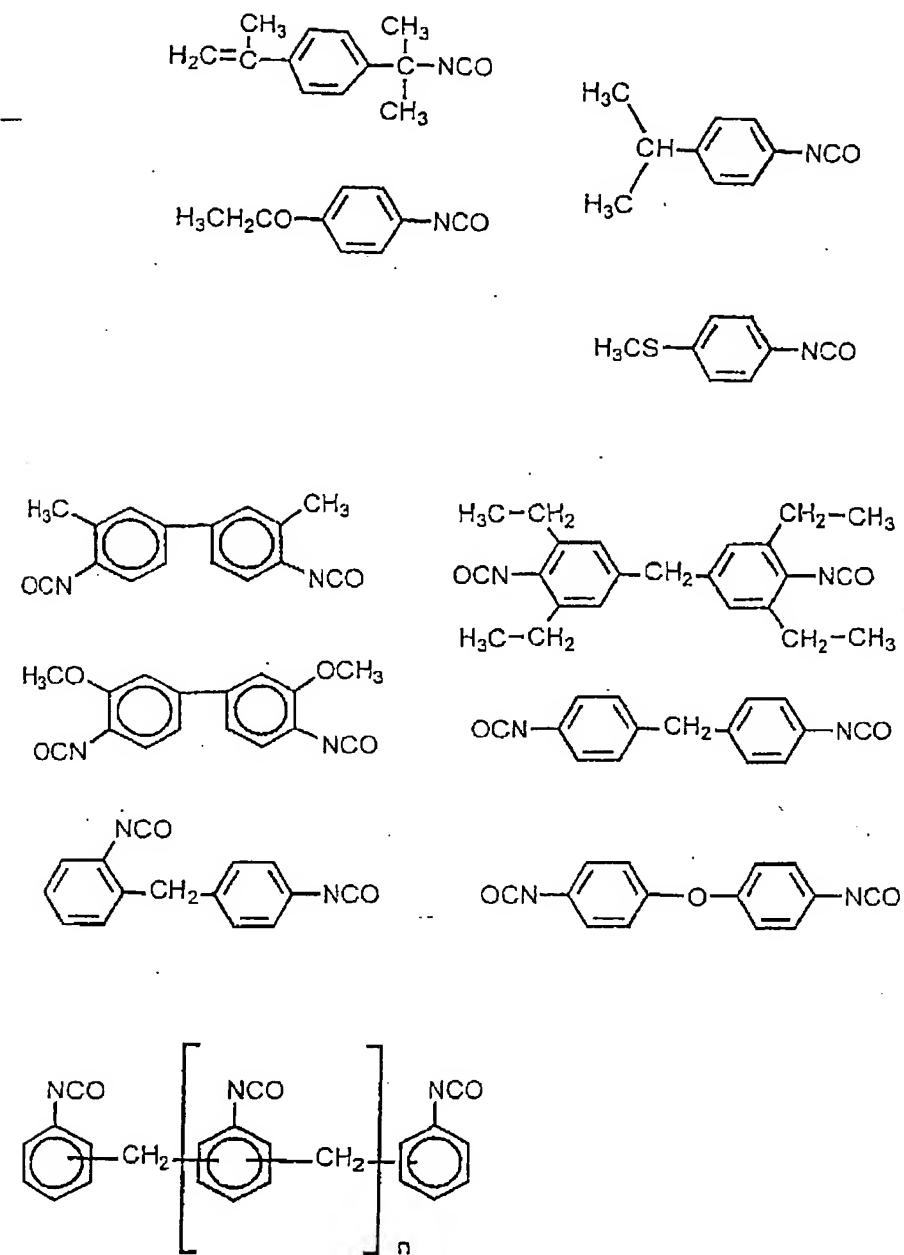
where X is CH_3 $\text{CH}_2\text{C}-$, $\text{ClH}_2\text{C}-$, $\text{Cl}_3\text{C}-$, $\text{H}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$ or Cl



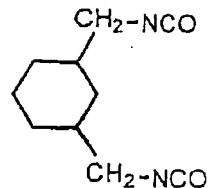
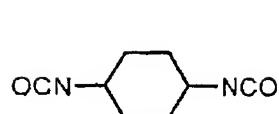
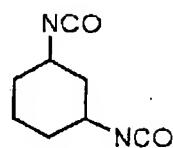
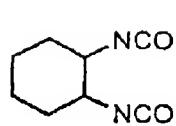
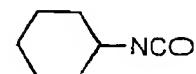
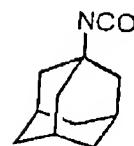
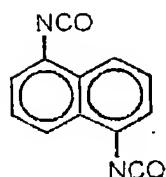
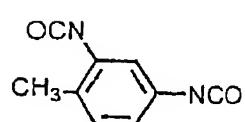
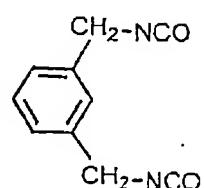
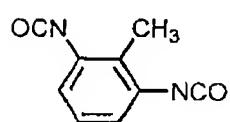
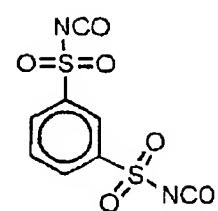
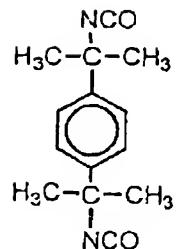
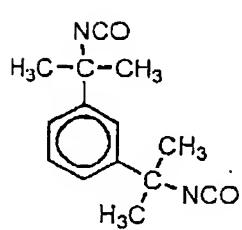
where x is 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12

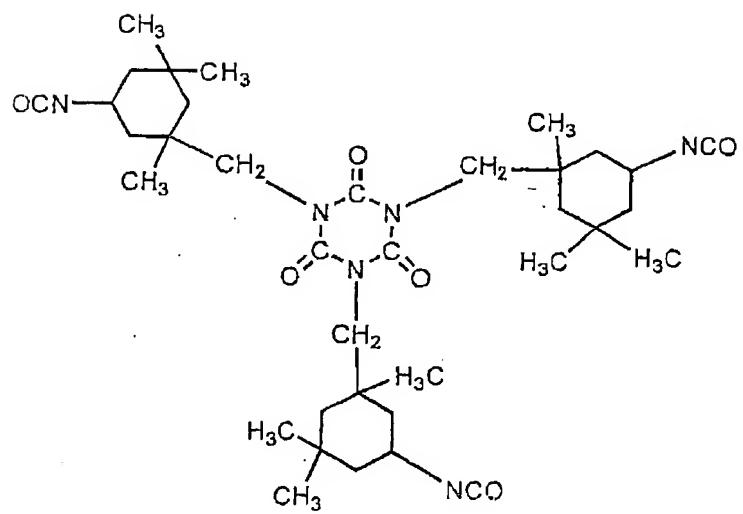
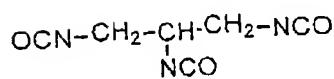
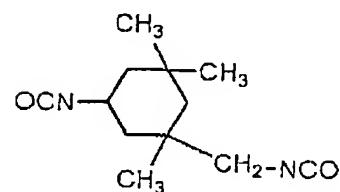
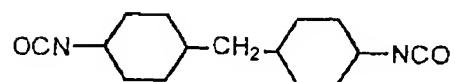


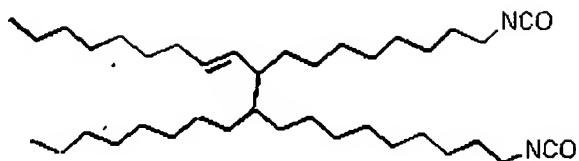




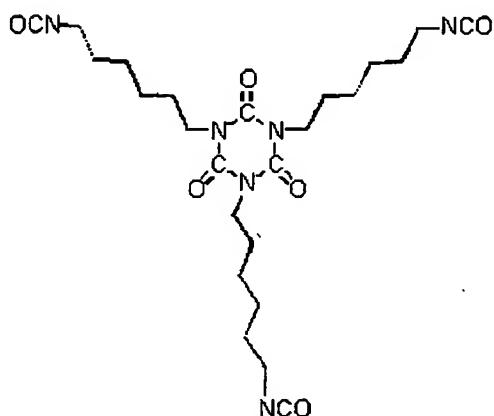
where n is 2, 3 or 4







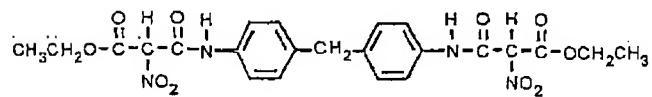
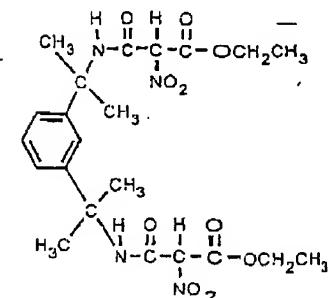
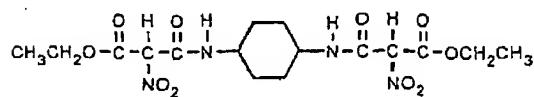
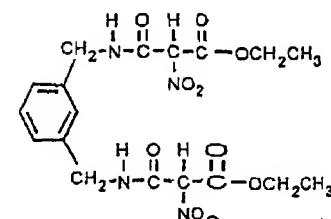
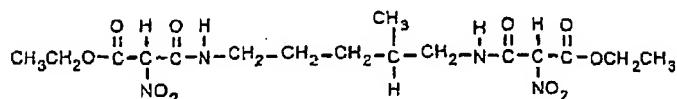
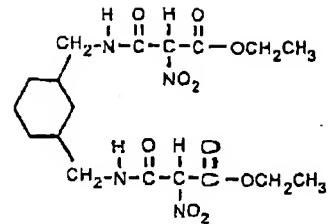
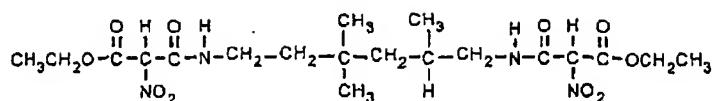
and



Claim 20 (currently amended): The compound of claim 4-32 wherein R is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate, or diisocyanate or triisocyanate a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate) ("MDI"); hydrogenated MDI; isophorone diisocyanate ("IPDI"), 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene("m-TMI"), isophorone triisocyanate, and tetramethylenexylenediisocyanate.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The compound of claim 4-32 where R is C₃₋₁₇ alkyl.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A compound selected from the group consisting of:



Claim 23 (currently amended): A process for the generation of a nitrile oxide precursor compound comprising the steps of

- generating a potassium enolate of ethyl nitroacetate in situ in the presence of ethanolic potassium hydroxide;
- isolating said enolate; and
- adding to said isolated enolate an isocyanate, diisocyanate or polyisocyanate material in a polar aprotic solvent.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The process of Claim 23 24 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of diglyme, monoglyme, glyme, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulfoxide.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A process for crosslinking a polymer composition comprising adding the compound of claim 4 32 to a solution of a polymer comprises one or more pendant or terminal functional groups selected from the group consisting of alkenes, alkynes, nitriles and isocyanates and heating the mixture to form a nitrile oxide in situ and a crosslinked polymer.

Claim 27 (canceled)

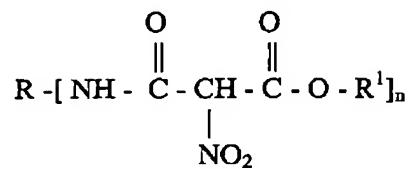
Claim 28 (currently amended): A urethane composition which is stable to temperatures below 120°C comprising the compound of claim 4 32.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A pressure sensitive adhesive, reactive hot melt adhesive, polyurethane dispersion, thermosetting adhesive, thermoplastic adhesive or coating comprising the compound of claim 4 32.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An AB copolymer where A comprises a compound of claim 19 which is derived from 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene ("m-TMI") and B is an unsaturated compound.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A polyurethane reactive hot melt adhesive comprising a compound of claim 4 32.

Claim 32 (new): A compound having the formula



where

R is an unsubstituted or a substituted C₁₋₁₇ alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, or aromatic group, with the proviso that such group cannot be derived from p-phenylene diisocyanate, or R is derived from a diisocyanate trimer;

n is 1-10; and

R¹ is a branched or unbranched C₁₋₅ alkyl group.